



# *Louisiana Housing Corporation*

*\*An audio-video recording of these proceedings is available upon request by contacting the LHC\**

## **LHC Board of Directors**

### **Programs Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

**2415 Quail Drive  
V. Jean Butler Board Room  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
10:00 A.M.**

#### **Committee Members Present**

Steven P. Jackson (Committee Chairman)  
Tonya P. Mabry  
Richard A. Winder (temporary appointment)

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Stacy S. Head

#### **Board Members Present**

Richard A. Winder

#### **Board Members Absent**

Johnny Berthelot  
Alfred E. Harrell, III  
Louisiana State Treasurer John M. Schroder  
Ericka McIntyre  
Willie Rack  
Gillis R. Windham  
Jennifer Vidrine  
Anthony P. Marullo, III

#### **Staff Present**

Barry E. Brooks  
Bradley Sweazy  
Yolanda Martin  
Brenda Evans

Lauren Hartley Holmes  
Louis Russell  
Leslie C. Strahan  
Bridgette Richard  
Dr. Shanta Harrison  
Thomas Bates  
Sharonda Rachal  
Plezetta M. West  
Carlos Dickerson  
Denisa Joshua

**Others Present**

See Guests Sign-In Sheet

**CALL TO ORDER**

Programs Committee Chairman Steven P. Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Board Secretary Barry E. Brooks called the roll; there was a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

PC Chairman Jackson solicited any public comments. There were none.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

PC Chairman Jackson wished everyone Happy Holidays, and noted that the proceeding was being LIVESTREAM to external participants.

**AGENDA ITEM #4**

The next item discussed was regarding the Multifamily Rural Bond Bundle Program.

LHC Chief Officer of Programs Brenda Evans introduced the matter, and noted that \$7M was being requested, that OCD would be allocating the remaining funds, that January 22, 2022 would be the deadline for submission of full applications, that as of current there had been one (1) pre-deadline application received, and that the matter would not be re-advertised.

**AGENDA ITEM #5**

Next item discussed as regarding the HOME Program.

Ms. Evans went over the specifics of the matter(s), noting that the Draft HOME Budget was \$30M, that Louisiana would be receiving \$39.2M in HOME ARP funds to address homelessness, sex trafficking, short term housing, and long term housing, etc.

Ms. Evans also advised that LHC would be planning outreach with the CoCs and stakeholders, that tentative public hearings would be held on January 5-6, 2022, that the Draft Plan would be presented during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2022, and that the funds would be available until 2030.

Interim Program Committee Member Richard A. Winder requested that the “roadshow” included Northern Louisiana cities of Cecily, Ferriday, Tallulah, and St. Joe.

PC Chairman Jackson requested that the public hearings also include a few virtual events.

**On a motion by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Winder, the Committee approved favorably that the HOME Budget be submitted to the Full Board at the January, 12, 2022 BODM for approval.**

**AGENDA ITEM #6**

Next item discussed was regarding Coronavirus Housing Relief.

DOA Deputy Commissioner Gina Campo gave an update on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the Housing Assistance Fund.

Ms. Campo noted as of current that \$146.6M had been allocated to Louisiana, that 10% had been received to launch a HAF Pilot Program, that in August 2021 the State sent its Action Plan to DOJ, that the DOA has procured contractor(s) and set up a website and had built a database, that there were 325 participants in the HAF Pilot Program, and that 913 invitations had been sent out for others to start submitted their applications.

Ms. Campo furthered, \$233K had been distributed to 38 applicants, and that the goal was to reach \$400K within the upcoming week, and that there were Direct Service Agreements with 44 entities ensuring secure data feed for quick info access.

Ms. Campo also noted that Louisiana was one of six states that had been approved by DOJ, that there would be a full media launch campaign on January 3, 2022, with priority to those in risk of foreclosure, and that DOA was working with LHC to add Housing Counseling component.

Additionally, Ms. Campo advised the HAF would not expire until 2026, and that the goal was to plan for “future unknowns”

As related to the ERAP1, Ms. Campo noted that such was launched in December 2020 and was progressing well, that as of current there had been \$60M approved for rental assistance with and additional \$21K for utility payments, that 1,200 new applications had been received the previous week, and that ERAP 2 would allow for an additional three (3) months forward for a total of 18 months of rental assistance.

The Status Reports regarding the aforementioned information presented by Ms. Campo is available upon request.

PC Chair Jackson noted his concern regarding applicants who need assistance in completing their applications, and asked that LHC take a lead role in outreach efforts.

LHC Executive Counsel Yolanda Martin advised that the ERAP is still under DOA as the primary administrator, in collaborative partnership with OCD and LHC.

PC Chair Jackson noted his concern that LHC is not the primary administrator of ERAP and HAF, given the mission of the LHC.

Ms. Campo advised that DOA and OCD are experienced in setting up large scale federal programs, and that she is encouraged by the “good partnership with LHC”.

PC Chair Jackson suggested a “roundtable ERAP discussion” to include LHC, DOA, OCD, and the Governor’s Office regarding recovery housing programs.

Mr. Winder inquired on how the reallocation of funds would be handled.

Ms. Campo advised that allocations would be based on DOJ guidelines, but that the request would be to have funds remain in Louisiana.

Next was an informative presentation and discussions with Southern University Law Center Chancellor John Pierre and SULC Professor Alycia Grace-O’Bear regarding the SULC Eviction Diversion Program.

Additional information on the SULC EDP was provided by Ms. Martin.

Chancellor Pierre advised that the EDP was giving experience and training to young lawyers, and that he felt such was “...part of the mission to serve the communi-versity”.

Professor O’Bear noted the goal of the EDP was to train “lawyer-leaders”, and that they were currently concentrating on the cities of Monroe, Alexandria, and Hammond.

Professor O'Bear furthered, noting they were reaching out to judges and court personnel involved in eviction matters to provide remediation, with the goal of keeping tenant housed and getting landlords paid, and that there was need for more on-site assistance.

Programs Committee Member Tonya P. Mabry stressed the need for extensive outreach as related to the public being aware of the EDP.

Mr. Winder stated he was very "encouraged" by the goals and efforts of the EDP, but that he was concerned about the citizens who did not have internet access.

Professor O'Bear advised that they were looking at securing actual "physical locations" to provide on-tie stations at the courthouses.

PC Chairman applauded everyone for all that was being done as related to ERAP, HAF, and SULC EDP.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #7**

Next item discussed as regarding LIHEAP.

The matters was discussed by Ms. Evans, with additional information provided by LHC Housing Deputy Administrator Lauren Holmes.

Ms. Holmes discussed the current LIHEAP and WAP statistics (document available upon request).

PC Chair inquired as to whether there was any duplicity of payments or any LIHEAP-ERAP overlap.

Ms. Holmes advised that the programs are separately processed, with protocols in place to catch any duplicity of benefits.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other matters to discuss, Ms. Mabry offered a motion for adjournment that was seconded by Mr. Winder. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

**The Programs Committee Meeting adjourned at 12:09 P.M.**

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**Board Secretary, Barry E. Brooks**